

5 **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A system for managing information relating to a patient in a hospital environment comprising:

10 a plurality of information processing systems for processing said information relating to said patient, each of said plurality of information processing systems being associated with a hospital function;

a portable data terminal for receipt and transmission of said information relating to said patient; and

15 a control server in communication with each of said plurality of information processing systems and said portable data terminal for managing said information relating to said patient.

2. A system as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of information processing systems are selected from the group consisting of hospital information systems, laboratory information  
20 systems, pharmacy information systems, radiology information systems and accounting information systems.

3. A system as in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of portable data terminals, wherein said control server is in communication between each of said plurality of  
25 information processing systems and each of said plurality of data terminals for managing said information relating to said patient.

4. A system as in claim 1, further comprising a terminal server associated with said portable data terminal, said terminal server providing communication between said portable

5 data terminal and said control server.

5. A system as in claim 4, further comprising a plurality of terminal servers each associated with a plurality of portable data terminals, said plurality of terminal servers each providing communication between said plurality of portable data terminals and said control  
10 server.

6. A system as in claim 5, wherein said communication between said plurality of portable data terminals and said control server is conducted through a local area network.

15 7. A system as in claim 1, wherein said portable data terminal includes a microprocessor, reading means, and printing means, said reading means capable of reading identification information from a patient identification code and printing a corresponding information label, and said microprocessor capable of storing data relating to said identification information and said printed information label for transmission to said plurality of said information systems  
20 through said control server.

8. A system as in claim 7, wherein said reading means is a bar code scanner.

9. A system as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of information processing systems are  
25 in communication with each other through said control server.

10. A system as in claim 1, wherein said portable data terminal is capable of periodic communication with said control server for intermittent interfacing with said plurality of information processing systems for receiving said information relating to said patient from

- 5    said plurality of information processing systems through said control server and for transferring data relating to said patient from said portable data terminal to said plurality of information processing systems through said control server.
11.    A system as in claim 10, wherein said periodic communication is established through  
10    radio frequency communication.
12.    A system for managing sample collection information and medication information relating to a patient in a hospital environment comprising:
- 15       a laboratory information processing system for processing said sample collection information relating to said patient;
- 15       a pharmacy information processing system for processing said medication information relating to said patient;
- 15       a portable data terminal for receipt and transmission of said sample collection information and said medication information; and
- 20       a control server in one-way or two-way communication with said laboratory information processing system, said pharmacy information processing system and said portable data terminal for managing said sample collection information and said medication information relating to said patient;
- 25       wherein said portable data terminal is capable of periodic communication with said control server for intermittent interfacing with said laboratory information processing system for receiving said sample collection information relating to said patient and with said pharmacy information processing system for receiving said medication information relating to said patient, and for transferring sample collection data relating to said patient taken in response to said sample collection information from said portable data terminal to said

5 laboratory information system and for transferring medication data relating to said patient administered in response to said medication information from said portable data terminal to said pharmacy information system.

13. A system for managing information relating to a patient in a hospital environment  
10 comprising:

a plurality of information processing systems for processing said information relating to said patient;

a portable data terminal for collection of data relating to assessment of said patient and transmission of said data; and

15 a control server in communication with each of said plurality of information processing systems and said portable data terminal for transferring said data from said portable data terminal to said plurality of information processing systems.

14. A method for managing patient information relating to a patient in a hospital  
20 environment comprising:

a) providing a plurality of information systems for processing information relating to said patient;

b) providing a portable data terminal;

c) transferring said information from said plurality of information systems to a  
25 control server;

d) accessing said information transferred to said control server through a portable data terminal;

e) conducting procedures according to said information accessed by said portable data terminal;

- 5           f)     storing data in said portable data terminal relating to said procedures conducted; and
  - g)     transferring said stored data from said portable data terminal to said plurality of information systems through said control server.
- 10    15.    A method as in claim 14, wherein said accessing step d) and said transferring step g) are accomplished through a terminal server.
16.    A method as in claim 14, wherein said terminal server serves a plurality of portable data terminals for accessing information, storing data and transferring of stored data.
- 15    17.    A method for managing patient sample collection information and patient medication information in a hospital environment comprising:
- a)     providing a laboratory information system for managing said patient sample collection information relating to sample collection and analysis;
  - 20           b)     providing a pharmacy information system for managing said patient medication information relating to medication prescribing and administering;
  - c)     providing a portable data terminal;
  - d)     transferring said sample collection information from said laboratory information system and said medication administering information from said pharmacy
  - 25    information system to a control server;
  - e)     accessing said sample collection information and said medication administering information transferred to said control server through a portable data terminal;
  - f)     collecting samples according to said sample collection information transferred to said portable data terminal and administering medication according to said medication

5 administering information accessed by said portable data terminal;

g) storing data in said portable data terminal relating to said collected samples and said dispensed medication; and

h) transferring said stored data from said portable data terminal to said laboratory information system and said pharmacy information system through said control server.

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18. A method as in claim 17, wherein said accessing step e) and said transferring step h) are accomplished through a terminal server.

19. A method as in claim 18, wherein said terminal server serves a plurality of portable  
15 data terminals for accessing information, storing data and transferring of stored data.